

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

66610

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087831

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SREF, MILI, SN, VS

SUBJECT: GOS DISPOSITION OF VIETNAMESE C-130

REFS: A. SINGAPORE 1546; B. SINGAPORE 1529;

C. SINGAPORE 1497 AND PREVIOUS;

D. SAIGON 4864 AND PREVIOUS

E. STATE 84084

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH APPROACH TO GOS PROPOSED REF A. IF YOU BELIEVE IT USEFUL, YOU SHOULD SEEK MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER OR HIGHEST GOS OFFICIAL ON THE SCENE RATHER THAN WITH DEF MIN GOH.

2. YOU SHOULD SEEK TO SEPARATE QUESTION OF RETURNING C-130 FROM QUESTION OF ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFUGEES SO THAT A BADLY NEEDED AIRCRAFT CAN BE RETURNED QUICKLY TO GVN CONTROL. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH EMBASSY SAIGON THAT PARA 5 OF STATE 84084 PROVIDES BASIS FOR ASSURING GOS THAT WE HAVE VIET-NAM REFUGEE PROBLEM UNDER GENERAL REVIEW; C-130 GROUP IS ENCOMPASSED THEREIN. YOU SHOULD
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AVOID COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME TO TRANSPORT THE GROUP TO A U.S.

JURISDICTION. IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, YOU CAN TELL GOS THAT USG CAN FUND THEIR SUBSISTENCE PENDING RESOLUTION OF THEIR EVENTUAL REFUGE. IF THIS NECESSARY PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT BY NIACT CABLE SLUGGED QUOTE ITF FOR S/R:ORM UNQUOTE. SUGGEST GOS APPROACH UNHCR AND/OR ICEM FOR ASSISTANCE FOR THESE REFUGEES. WE WOULD SUPPORT SUCH REQUEST, IF MADE. WE, OF COURSE, AGREE THAT THESE REFUGEES HOULD NOT RPT NOT BE FORCED TO RETURN TO RVN.

3. WITH RESPECT TO POINTS D AND F OF AIDE MEMOIRE YOU SHOULD TELL GOS THAT SINCE AIRCRAFT UNDER VNAF OPERATION, GOS AND GVN SHOULD NEGOTIATE MECHANICS OF RETURN. YOU SHOULD TELL GOS THAT WE UNDERSTAND GVN PREPARED TO PROVIDE CREW WHICH WOULD BE UNARMED AND WOULD RETURN AIRCRAFT DIRECTLY TO RVN. USG IS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE CREW.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY DO A CENSUS OF C-130 GROUP TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY, IF ANY, FOR U.S. IMMIGRANT VISAS AND TO OBTAIN PERSONAL DATA AND OTHER DATA WHICH WOULD BEAR ON THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE STATUS.

5. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH GVN EMBASSY SINGAPORE AND COORDINATE AS NECESSARY IN APPROACHES TO GOS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, AIRCRAFT DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE087831
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/VN:LMPETERS:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750133-0978
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750441/aaaabmfd.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 SINGAPORE 1546, 75 SINGAPORE 1529
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS DISPOSITION OF VIETNAMESE C-130
TAGS: SREF, MILI, SN, VS
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006